

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARIS 11554 01 OF 02 201456Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 EB-08 AID-05 TRSE-00 /071 W
-----201525Z 026569 /53

R 201454Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1926
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMCONSUL BORDEAUX
AMCONSUL LYON
AMCONSUL MARSEILLE
AMCONSUL NICE
AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 11554

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PO, FR, PFOR, PINT
SUBJECT: VISIT OF PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST LEADER CUNHAL

SUMMARY. PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY (PCP) LEADER ALVARO CUNHAL MADE AN IMPASSIONED PRESENTATION TO THE FRENCH SOCIALIST PARTY URGING "UNDERSTANDING AND COMPASSION" UPON THE PS. SENIOR SOCIALIST LEADER BELIEVES THAT CUNHAL'S MAIN PURPOSE WAS TO HAVE PS
-- USE ITS INFLUENCE WITH MARIO SOARES TO HAVE HIM STOP THE "DENATIONALIZATION PROGRAM";
-- "URGE FISCAL RESTRAINT ON SOARES."
CUNHAL'S PRESENTATION TO THE PS IS ALSO BEING READ AS A VERY SOPHISTICATED EXERCISE IN IMAGE BUILDING. END SUMMARY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PARIS 11554 01 OF 02 201456Z

1. IN THE COURSE OF A THREE-DAY VISIT TO PARIS (APRIL 12-15), PCP LEADER CUNHAL MADE AN IMPASSIONED PLEA TO THE FRENCH SOCIALISTS FOR THEIR AID AND RECOGNITION IN SOLVING HIS PARTY'S DIFFERENCES WITH THE SOARES GOVERNMENT. IN ALL, CUNHAL IS REPORTED TO HAVE HELD THREE MEETINGS WITH SENIOR PS OFFICIALS INCLUDING ONE WITH NATIONAL DELEGATE FOR IBERIAN AFFAIRS ANTOINE BLANCA,

ANOTHER WITH FRANCOIS MITTERRAND AND OTHER SENIOR LEADERS, AND A PROTOCOL MEETING WITH INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS SECRETARY ROBERT PONTILLON.

2. THE AGRICULTURAL PROBLEM: CUNHAL EXPLAINED TO THE FRENCH SOCIALISTS THAT THE PCP CONSIDERED THE SOARES GOVERNMENT'S POLICY OF REPLACING INTO PRIVATE HANDS LAND IN THE SOUTH OF PORTUGAL WHICH HAD BEEN NATIONALIZED IN 1974-1975 AS "NOTHING SHORT OF SUICIDAL." WHILE OBVIOUSLY TAKING GREAT CARE TO PROJECT AN IMAGE OF "NON-REVOLUTIONARY RESPONSIBILITY" (IN THE WORDS OF PS SPOKESMAN CLAUDE ESTIER), CUNHAL WAS AT PAINS TO PRESENT HIMSELF AS A "REASONABLE MARXIST"(ESTIER'S TERM) WHO BELIEVES THAT THE PORTUGUESE REVOLUTION COULD BE "BETRAYED BY A RETROGRADE ACTION ON THE PART OF SOARES."

3. PORTUGUESE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS: BLASTING THE SOARES GOVERNMENT FOR WHAT HE CALLS FISCAL IRRESPONSIBILITY, CUNHAL PROFESSED TO BE WORRIED ABOUT THE FUTURE ECONOMIC STABILITY OF PORTUGAL AND ARGUED VOCIFEROUSLY FOR AN "AUSTERITY PROGRAM." HE OFFERED LITTLE OR NO SPECIFIC PROGRAMMATIC SUGGESTIONS ON HOW THIS AUSTERITY WAS TO BE ACHIEVED.

4. THE PS REACTION: SENIOR SOCIALIST LEADERS ARE INCLINED TO DISMISS THE CUNHAL VISIT AS NOTHING MORE THAN A BIZARRE EPISODE AIMED AT PCP IMAGE BUILDING. THEY ALSO DECLARED THEMSELVES TO HAVE BEEN SINGULARLY UNIMPRESSED BY THE SPECIFICS OF CUNHAL'S PITCH, ARGUING CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PARIS 11554 01 OF 02 201456Z

THAT HE OFFERED NO MEANINGFUL SUGGESTIONS FOR RUNNING

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARIS 11554 02 OF 02 201457Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-08 AID-05 TRSE-00 /071 W

-----201524Z 026611 /53

R 201454Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1927

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 11554

EITHER THE PORTUGUESE ECONOMY AS A WHOLE OR ITS AGRICULTURAL SECTOR. ASKED IF THE PS PLANNED FURTHER CONTACTS WITH CUNHAL, PARTY SPOKESMAN ESTIER SHRUGGED HIS SHOULDERS AND WOULD ONLY SAY THAT THE CURRENT EPISODE HAD ALREADY COST THE PS "A LOT OF CAPITAL WITH THE PORTUGUESE EMBASSY IN PARIS."

5. LEFT ALLIANCE IN PORTUGAL?:IN HIS APRIL 15 PRESS CONFERENCE, CUNHAL PROPOSED A "VERY LARGE SYSTEM OF SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCES" TO ASSURE THE DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY AND NOTED THAT THIS IMPLIED A RAPPROCHEMENT BETWEEN THE SOCIALISTS AND COMMUNISTS. CUNHAL ADDED THAT THE SOCIALISTS MUST SEEK SUPPORT ON EITHER THE LEFT OR RIGHT IN ORDER TO GOVERN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PARIS 11554 02 OF 02 201457Z

AND ON THE LEFT THAT MEANS THE PCP. HE WENT TO "INSIST" THAT, DESPITE EXISTING DISAGREEMENTS AND SEVERE PCP CRITICISM OF SOCIALIST POLICY, A DEMOCRATIC UNION MUST BE CREATED.

6. EUROCOMMUNISM REACHES TOWARD LISBON: IN A SIMILAR VEIN, CUNHAL TOOK ISSUE WITH THE TERM "EUROCOMMUNIST" AS INEXACT AND INSUFFICIENTLY DESCRIPTIVE, BUT WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE PCP IS "ABSOLUTELY IN AGREEMENT" WITH THE CONCEPT THAT EACH COMMUNIST PARTY FIND ITS OWN ROAD TO SOCIALISM. CUNHAL ALSO SAID HE HAD NO QUARREL WITH THE PCI OR PCF FOR HAVING SUPPORTED THE PCE AT THE MADRID SUMMIT.

HARLAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMUNISTS, VISITS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PARIS11554
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770137-0420
Format: TEL
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770438/aaaabglr.tel
Line Count: 169
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ab13b1a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2748503
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST LEADER CUNHAL SUMMARY. PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY (PCP) LEADER ALVARO CUNHAL MADE AN IMPASSIONED PRESENTATION TO THE F R E
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PO, FR, (CUNHAL, CUNHAL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ab13b1a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009